

## THE FIRST RECORD OF THE SPIDER *LOXOSCELES* *RUFESCENS* (DUFOUR) IN ILLINOIS<sup>1</sup>

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The only specimens of the genus *Loxosceles* which have been collected in Illinois during the period 1959-1970 were *Loxosceles reclusa* Gertsch and Muliak (Unzicker, 1970. Ent. News. 81. p. 188). *L. rufescens* has been reported by Gertsch (1958. Amer. Mus. Nov. No. 1907. 46 pp.; 1967. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 136 (3). pp. 119-173) from the Mediterranean region, the islands of the North Atlantic, Madagascar, Japan, the Middle East, and the states of Maryland, New York, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas in the United States. In addition Whitmyre and Wills (1970. Ent. News 81 (3). p. 70) have reported *rufescens* from eastern Pennsylvania, and Keh (1970. Calif. Vector News. 17 (5). pp. 29-38) has reported it from southern California.

*L. rufescens* is considered to be a ubiquitous species which has been transported by commerce and seemingly established itself in many countries (Gertsch, 1967). Although this species has not been previously reported from Illinois there were indications that it might eventually be found in the state. Gertsch (1958) reported a 1940 record of *rufescens* (a single male) from St. Louis, Missouri, and Whitmyre and Wills (1970) reported it from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Wilkes-Barre record was based on a male found in a plastic pitcher which was part of a shipment originating in Chicago, Illinois.

The only specimen of *rufescens* discovered in Illinois to date is a single female specimen found in a Fayette County Agriculture Ex-

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tension Adviser's office in Vandalia on April 19, 1971. The specimen was identified by the author and the identification verified by Dr. Willis J. Gertsch of the American Museum of Natural History.

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ABSTRACT.—The spider *Loxosceles rufescens* (Dufour) is reported from Illinois for the first time on the basis of a single female specimen collected in 1971. Previous to 1971 only *Loxosceles reclusa* Gertsch and Muliak was known from the state.—John D. Unzicker, Section of Faunistic Surveys and Insect Identification, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, IL 61801.

*Descriptors:* *Loxosceles rufescens*; Araneae; Scytodidae.